

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 December 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.

Chair:	Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)	
In Attendance in Chamber:	Councillor C Enright Councillor M Larkin Councillor O Magennis	Councillor D Finn Councillor G Kearns Councillor H Reilly
In Attendance via Teams:	Councillor W Clarke Councillor M Rice	Councillor L McEvoy Councillor J Truesdale
Officials in Attendance:	Mr A Cassells, Director Sustainability and Environment Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director Waste Management Mr C Sage, Assistant Director Sustainability Ms G Kane, Head of Facilities Management Mr A Mallon, Head of Maintenance Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting) Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer	

SE/144/2023: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Feehan and Taylor.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr C Sage who had recently been appointed as the new Assistant Director of Sustainability to his first committee meeting.

The Chairperson also thanked Mrs G Kane & Mr A Mallon who had been acting Assistant Directors since April 2023 for all their hard work and rising to the challenges in particular the elections in May 2023 and the fantastic response in relation to flooding in October and November 2023.

The Chairperson wished Mr B Rankin, Head of Sustainability who was leaving Council, all the best in his new role and hoped that the recruitment process would be swift to fill the post of Head of Sustainability and the Energy Officer post which was currently being reviewed.

Mr Cassells commended a Council employee from his Department for going above and beyond their duty in assisting and administering first aid at a road traffic accident involving a Council vehicle and a car in the Belleeks area.

The Chairperson requested a letter of appreciation be sent to the employee in recognition of their exemplary behaviour.

SE/145/2023: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

There were no declarations of interest.

SE/146/2023: ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2023

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 November 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

SE/128/2023 – Upgrade to Town Centre CCTV and Council Facilities CCTV

In response to query from Councillor Truesdale, Mrs G Kane advised that it was a historic issue in relation to monitoring of different areas within the district and the upgrade in relation to town centres CCTV if approved had to be completed by the end of 2025 as the analogue lines would no longer be in effect.

SE/127/2023 – Fleet Replacement

In response to query from Councillor Enright, Mr Cassells confirmed that he was content that a whole life cost analysis to be carried out on forklift and mechanical sweepers before making a decision regarding every vehicle and clarified that Greenbank did have electric van capacity, just not as much as Strangford Road. He would be asking NIE for additional supply to be added however was mindful if a greater supply requested than what NIE could provide at present Council may end up being responsible for the full cost of another substation.

SE/126/2023 – Consultation response in creating a smoke free generation and tackling young vaping

Councillor Reilly expressed concerns at the amount of young people being exploited and encouraged to use vapes containing addictive chemicals making a child vulnerable. He queried whether a more collaborative approach with outside partners could be taken to highlight the threat and dangers of vaping to the wider public.

Mrs S Murphy agreed to revert to Councillor Reilly outside of the meeting to see if there were any linkages which could be made to raise more awareness around the dangers of vaping.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Finn, it was agreed that the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 November 2023 be noted.

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Larkin, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 4 to 13, which related to exempt information by virtue of para. Three of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor Magennis it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:

SE/147/2023: BUSINESS CASE FOR SUPPLY OF WOOD PELLETS FOR GREENBANK BIOMASS BOILER

Read: Report dated 20 December 2023 from Mrs G Kane, Acting Assistant Director; Facilities Management & Maintenance regarding a business case for renewal of service contract for supply of Wood Pellets to Greenbank Council Depot, Newry. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Kearns it was agreed to note the contents of the report and to approve the business case for the supply of wood pellets for the Greenbank Depot biomass boiler for a 5 year period.

SE/148/2023: REVIEW OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE OPENING/CLOSING TIMES

Read: Report dated 20 December 2023 from Mrs G Kane, Acting Assistant Director; Facilities Management & Maintenance regarding a review of Public Convenience opening/closing times. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Reilly, to note the contents of the report and approve the opening/closing times contained within Appendix 1 of the officer's report, based on the review of the cleansing review and liaison with Council's HR department to ensure consideration of aspects contained within point 2.4 of the officer's report.

Councillor Reilly left the meeting at this point – 18.26pm

SE/149/2023: BUSINESS CASE FOR BEDDING PLANTS

Read: Report dated 20 December 2023 from Mr A Mallon, Assistant Director Facilities Management & Maintenance regarding a Tender for supply of Summer & Winter bedding plants for public spaces 2024 - 2026 **(copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Finn, to endorse the themes as contained in the officer's report and commence the procurement for supply of bedding plants as outlined in Section 2 of the officer's report.

Councillor Reilly rejoined the meeting – 18.31pm

SE/150/2023: STA FOR METAL FABRICATION

Read: Report dated 20 December 2023 from Mr A Mallon, Assistant Director Facilities Management & Maintenance regarding Single Tender Action for Metal Fabrication and Repair Contractor. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Magennis, to note the contents of the report and approve the attached Single Tender Action form.

SE/151/2023: BUSINESS CASE FOR OCCASIONAL HOOK HIRE

Read: Report dated 20 December 2023 from Mrs S Murphy, Assistant Director: Environment, regarding a Business Case for Occasional Hire of Hook Loader Vehicle and Driver. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to approve the business case expenditure to procure a contract for the occasional hire of hook loader vehicle and driver.

FOR NOTING – These items are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

SE/152/2023: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Read: ARC21 – Joint Committee Members Monthly Bulletin. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the arc21 Joint Committee Members Monthly Bulletin from 5 December 2023.

SE/153/2023: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 26 OCTOBER 2023

Read: ARC21 Joint Committee Meeting in Committee Minutes of 26 October 2023 **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note arc21 Joint Committee Meeting In Committee Minutes of 26 October 2023.

SE/154/2023: UPDATE ON REBRANDING/REDEVELOPMENT OF NEWRY MARKET

Read: Report dated 20 December 2023 from Mrs G Kane, Acting Assistant Director: Facilities Management & Maintenance regarding an update on rebranding/redevelopment of Newry Market **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the contents of the report.

SE/155/2023: FASTER EV PROJECT SLA WITH EASYGO

Read: Report dated 20 December 2023 from Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environment regarding the Faster EV Project with EasyGo. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the final Service Level Agreement with EasyGo, as part of the FASTER project.**

SE/156/2023: FLEET OPERATOR'S LICENSE

Read: Report dated 20 December 2023 from Mrs S Murphy, Assistant Director: Environment regarding the Fleet Operator's License – Fleet Management Action Plan Update. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the contents of the report.**

FOR NOTING

SE/157/2023: JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF 26 OCTOBER 2023

Read: ARC21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes of 26 October 2023 **(Copy circulated)**.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Finn, it was agreed note the minutes.**

SE/158/2023: NI WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS 2022-23

Read: Report dated 20 December from Mrs S Murphy, Assistant Director: Environment regarding NI Waste Management Statistics 2022/23 **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Finn, it was agreed note the contents of the report.**

SE/159/2023: SHARED ISLAND PROJECT ON FLEET DECARBONISATION

Read: Report dated 20 December 2023 from Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environment regarding the Shared Island Project on Fleet Decarbonisation. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Finn, it was agreed to note the report produced as part of the Shared Island funded project on fleet decarbonisation in Appendix 1 of the officer's report.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 18:43pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 08 January 2024.

Signed: Councillor Terry Andrews
Chairperson

Signed: Mr Andrew Cassells
Director of Sustainability & Environment